

Southern Transitional Council

General Department of Foreign Affairs



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الإدارة العامة للشؤون الخارجية

URGENT APPEAL IN RESPONSE TO FLASH FLOODS IN ADEN

[ADEN – April 22, 2020] The Southern Transitional Council (STC) has announced a state of emergency in Aden in response to catastrophic floods in the city and surrounding areas. The situation on the ground is dire and requires an urgent international humanitarian response: the floods have already cost the lives of civilians, including many children.

We have mobilised our resources on the ground, with STC teams coordinating the relief operations in response to today's dreadful events. We are working with aid agencies to ensure support gets to those in most need. And Southern forces have been directed to assist those wounded and to start a clear-up operation. But our resources are limited. The dire humanitarian situation on the ground, including a further outbreak of cholera, requires direct international support.

We appreciate that the global focus is on COVID-19 getting the pandemic under control. This has created constraints on humanitarian budgets. But today's tragedy in Aden only compounds an already precarious situation. As the UN humanitarian chief, Mark Lowcock, warned the Security Council last week, the consequences of COVID-19 alone could bring Yemen to the brink of famine. Marginalised communities such as those in the South, cannot combat crises on three fronts: conflict, pandemic and floods.

Today's tragic events come against a backdrop of ongoing lack of basic services in South Yemen. While the Yemeni government has remained absent from Aden, civil servants across many institutions have not received their salaries, with ongoing electricity black outs, unhealthy sanitation levels, and lack of food and medicine supplies. This punishment of the South by the government is a norm that we have endured for decades. But it is a status quo that can no longer be tolerated by the Southern people.

We need urgent support to manage the consequences of both flooding and COVID-19. But we also need to create the conditions for good governance so that we can ourselves manage future crises. For that, we need a durable and fair political solution to the conflict in Yemen. Today's tragic events in Aden must be a wake-up call that any negotiated settlement must include the South. Only a truly inclusive and comprehensive political approach will deliver a deal that can address the acute needs on the ground, including humanitarian, economic and security.

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General Department of Foreign Affairs
Al-Tawahi, Aden

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H.E. Mr. José Singer Weisinger

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
President of the Security Council

Thursday, May 7, 2020

Your Excellencies,

On April 25, the Southern Transitional Council declared a state of emergency and self-administration throughout the south, a decision which we did not take lightly or without careful consideration. I am writing to you today to explain why it has become necessary to take this step and what our vision is moving forward.

I understand that members of the international community will have many questions about our decision, and it is therefore important to put it in the appropriate context.

There are four main issues which I wish to highlight:

First, the humanitarian situation became intolerable and the Yemeni government was unwilling to guarantee the safety and welfare of southern civilians. As the United Nations Director of Humanitarian Affairs, Mark Lowcock, briefed you on April 16, the humanitarian situation in the south, as in all parts of Yemen, is bad. He also explained that the consequences of the Corona Virus pandemic would bring famine to Yemen. The deadly floods of 21 April worsened the situation, in particular devastating large parts of Aden. In addition to the tragic loss of life, many in Aden remain homeless and live in temporary homes. All this while trying to reduce the catastrophic impact of the Corona Virus pandemic in the south.

Meanwhile, instead of working to manage the humanitarian crisis, the Yemeni government has made it worse. We have become accustomed to the Yemeni government's inefficiency, financial neglect and corruption on a large scale. Civil servants' salaries are still unpaid for months. Basic services are neglected and degraded. The population lacks sanitation and safe drinking water. That said, the turning point came when the government decided to cut the electricity to the south. The practice of collective punishment by successive Yemeni governments in the south has forced us to intervene to restore basic services and protect civilians and put an end to further deterioration.

Second, the deteriorating security situation caused by the Yemeni government actions. The cessation of hostilities remains necessary to create adequate space to deal with the Corona Virus pandemic and open the way for a political solution to the ongoing conflict. The Southern Transitional Council was the first to respond positively to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's call for a global ceasefire. We coordinated with the southern forces to ensure they implemented a ceasefire. However,

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we find ourselves attacked by the Houthis on a number of fronts including in Al-Dhalea, as well as militias supported by the Yemeni government in Abyan and Shabwa. Instead of the Yemeni government taking a positive role to ensure that security is maintained in the South, it has become a source of insecurity including supporting and harbouring terrorist operatives, accordingly, we have seen it necessary to intervene to ensure the security and safety of civilians in the South.

Third, it would not have been easy to reach the agreement concluded in Riyadh, had it not been for the Saudi Arabia's efforts, and the Transitional Council had made many concessions in search for a solution. However, the government has not shown any positive indication that it would fulfil the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement according to the sequential arrangement in it, and it has shown no intention to do so. Although the end result is not ideal, we have worked in good faith and tried by all means to progress towards the implementation, but the Yemeni government has hindered all efforts .

Not only was the implementation slow but the agreement was actually violated. For example, only during the past month, new forces supported by the Yemeni government were transferred towards Aden as part of their plans to wage war on the South and Aden, and unfortunately these violations continue unpunished. The Riyadh Agreement remains an important means to achieve a lasting solution to the crisis in Yemen Generally. We welcomed the statement of the coalition calling for commitment to the agreement, as we stressed the importance of the agreement and the need to implement it. That said, an agreement is a means to achieving the goal of peace, and it will not be an end in itself, through improper implementation. If the agreement is to continue, implementation must be from both parties, and the international community must ensure that the other party plays its role. Meanwhile, in the absence of any progress towards the implementation of the agreement, we decided to intervene to ensure good governance in the South.

Fourth, while the humanitarian and security situation in the South is deteriorating, we see little effort to secure a long-term solution such as a negotiated settlement that adequately meets the needs of the South. We have become concerned that the issue of the people of the South is not being addressed through the UN-led process and we see representation of the Southern people as a must to be present at the negotiating table. The issue of the people of the South has been unjustifiably absent so far and today we hope the Special Envoy, Mr. Martin Griffiths, through your distinguished Council, can reconsider his approach to ensure the full attendance of our cause and our people in the next round of arrangements. We affirm and confirm our full support for the efforts of the Special Envoy. However, the lack of a realistic political horizon, along with the deteriorating humanitarian situation, the deteriorating security situation, and the government lack of respect for the agreements gives us no alternative but to take responsibility for the needs of the population in the South, a step which cannot be postponed indefinitely.

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Our current focus is on stabilising the South and the provision of basic services to our people. The power plant in Aden has already been restarted and the electricity supply restored. We have implemented extensive cleaning and sterilization operations. We are work with the local administrations, the judiciary, the central and other governmental banks, civil society sectors, and legal and specialists, to formulate a common vision for the administration of the South, and we have assured the Special Envoy in our video meeting with him yesterday that we will uphold the principle of transparency our administration and we reaffirmed our willingness to welcome international observers through the United Nations to monitor our administration of the South .

We value the statements by international partners which have recognised the importance of the cause of the people of the South, but we confirm that we need to see this recognition reflected in the substance of the United Nations-led peace process. We hope for a comprehensive and sustainable political solution achieved through the United Nations-led process, which properly addresses the issue of the people of the South by respecting the legitimate aspirations of the Southerners and their representation in the consultations and negotiations. It has become clear that in order to reach such a step, we must be invited to participate in the political process immediately. As we have consistently indicated, we are ready to play our part through dialogue and be a constructive player towards securing comprehensive peace.

We will continue to work with our regional partners, and we will remain active partners on the ground in our collective efforts to counter the threats posed by terrorism and extremism.

I am copying this letter to the members of the Security Council and the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths, and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mark Lowcock

Yours sincerely

Mohammed Al Ghaithi

General Department of Foreign Affairs
Southern Transitional Council
Aden



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The President Office



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مكتب الرئيس

STATEMENT

We, the Southern Transitional Council (STC), have become increasingly concerned over actions by the so-called recognised Yemeni government that undermine the protection of the Southern people and the stability across the South. Such actions have directly targeted our Revolution, our Cause and our Social Fabric which are aimed at increasing the suffering and pains of our people at every level, including:

1. The non-payment of salaries of military and security personal and retired military and civil servants for number of months.
2. The stopping of support to the frontlines including the supply of weapons, food and daily necessities.
3. The stopping of support to the families of martyrs and those injured.
4. The attempts to fuel national divisions and undermine national cohesion.
5. The support for terrorism and terrorist groups.
6. The deterioration of basic and necessary services including basic infrastructure in electricity, water, highways, the impact of which was evident during the recent floods which caused unimaginable suffering for our people in the capital Aden, particularly before the Holy month of Ramdan, and using this as a weapon to suppress our people.

In light of the continuing unwillingness and refusal of the Yemeni Government to perform its duties and to make best use of our people's resources and assets, including serious levels of corruption by government officials, , in addition, its refusal to implement its responsibilities as part of the Riyadh Agreement which has been met by unexplained and unjustified silence by our partners in the Arab Coalition towards sabotaging steps are aimed at undermining our Revolution and our just National Cause.

The Southern Transitional Council is left with no choice –based on the popular mandate given by the Southern people on the 4th May 2017 – to take the necessary steps to protect our people and safeguard the accomplishment of our Revolution and the victories of our heroic Southern resistance. And in light of the fact that the Southern Transitional Council had given the partners in the Arab Coalition and the Yemeni Government an opportunity since the 3rd October 2018 in order to improve the living conditions of our people, however, no response or active steps have taken place to deal with these problems. As a result, the Council has decided as follows:

Firstly: A state of emergency is declared in the capital Aden and all Southern areas and the military and security services shall begin its implementation today Saturday, 25/4/2020, the 2nd Ramadhan 1441 Hijri.

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Secondly: The Southern Transitional Council shall assume the autonomous administration of the South starting from midnight of Saturday, 26 April 2020 and the Autonomy Administration Committee shall commence its responsibilities in accordance with the duties assigned to it by the Council's presidency.

Thirdly: To call on the people of the South to stand with our political leadership and to support it in the implementation of the autonomous administration of the South.

Fourthly: To establish a Supervisory Committee to oversee the performance of the public administrations and to tackle corruption in the central and local administrations in collaboration with the National Assembly and the Heads of the Council's local administrations in the governorates within their geographical area to ensure good autonomous governance.

Fifthly: The Council's economic, legal, military and security committees shall direct the public bodies and administrations to implement the autonomous administration of the South within their individual remit and expertise in a way which does not contravene the interest of the Southern people.

Sixthly: To call all Southern governors of all Southern governorates, officials in all public administration bodies and public facilities to continue in their positions and perform in a way which does not contravene the interest of the Southern people.

Seventhly: To call on our partners in the Arab Coalition and the international community to support these autonomous administration steps to ensure the security and stability of our people, to combat terrorism and protect international peace and security.

Victory for the South

Eternal Peace to the Martyrs

Issued: 25.4.2020

President Aidrous Alzubaidi
Southern Transitional Council

[ADEN – 18 MAY 2020] The COVID-19 situation in South Yemen and across the country has drastically worsened over the past week. Specifically, in the South, the daily death toll is in the dozens from the Coronavirus outbreak and rise in infectious diseases such as Malaria and Dengue Fever. Commenting on the latest developments, Head of the Southern Transitional Council's Relief & Humanitarian Action Committee, Adnan Al-Kaf, said:

"The STC is working with vital facilities and civil society organizations on the ground to manage the situation. Our COVID-19 Emergency Committee and Relief committees operating in different Southern governorates have protocols in place to make the most of the limited testing kits available and to implement social distancing and other preventive measures. However, the means are simply not available to counter the spread of disease ravaging the South. Hospitals are reduced to the most basic of operations and personal protective equipment for personnel is dangerously scarce. We also require support to operationalize field hospitals to support the COVID-19 response.

"Without urgent support to bolster the debilitated health system and to address damage to infrastructure, we may be looking at near one hundred percent mortality rates for cases requiring medical assistance. The imminent interruption to UN programs and funding for the UN humanitarian response plan in Yemen only compounds the problem. We call on all international and regional partners – both governments and NGOs – to increase and expedite their support to give the people the best chance of weathering this crisis.

"We appreciate the words of concern about the situation in South Yemen, but they must be translated into concrete action to help the population now in more need than ever. In this regard, we look to the humanitarian pledging conference to be held virtually on 2 June, but we urge the international and donor community to demonstrate true leadership and give contributions even before then. The situation is deteriorating by the day. We further echo the calls of the Southern people and Southern civil society for critical support, and stress the importance of rising to the challenges in Yemen as part and parcel of the global response to COVID-19"

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SOUTH YEMEN: UPDATE ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

[ADEN – 17 February 2020] In recent weeks there have been ongoing challenges with the implementation of the power sharing arrangement between the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the government of Yemen – known as the Riyadh Agreement. This period has seen dangerous incidents that have threatened the stability of the South, including through an uptake in extremist attacks by AQAP and ISIS, and risk the diplomatic progress achieved previously.

The power sharing arrangement was secured in response to the facts on the ground. The STC signed the Riyadh Agreement with full commitment in its implementation. In concrete terms, we have delivered some important elements of the Agreement. Notably we facilitated the return of the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the government to Aden; redeployed Southern forces and allowed inspections of military sites; was at the forefront in the release of detainees; and intensified our diplomacy, including by maintaining a negotiating team to continue engagement with the Yemeni government.

The Agreement was ambitious from the onset. This was a challenge we were willing to accept given the needs of our people, and of our vision to play a decisive role in ending the civil war in Yemen. Despite our constructive approach, we have faced intransigence and blockages in moving the implementation process forward. This has included the movement of government troops towards Aden that would have caused instability on the ground, as well as credible reports of human rights violations in Abyan and Shabwa at the hands of government forces. And important steps such as appointment of new Governors and security chiefs for the South remain on hold despite our efforts to move on those issues.

Against this backdrop, the STC's focus is on finding a breakthrough to the impasse. Our commitment to the political solution remains clear. As we have stated, the Riyadh Agreement is a key stepping stone to the broader UN-led political process. All sides now have a critical but small window of opportunity to bring the focus and effort onto

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implementation of the Agreement. Immediate action is needed to breathe confidence in the process. This needs to lead to tangible progress on the ground for our people, including on improvements in delivery of basic services, good governance, and reassurances on Southern needs being fully addressed through the political track.

We urgently call on our international partners to support this approach, including to use their relationships and leverage in the region to unlock the intransigence. Despite the current bleak outlook for the resumption of UN talks in the near future, the STC's steadfast focus remains to engage constructively and effectively in support of UN Envoy Martin Griffiths to convene the parties for a viable negotiated political solution.

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Press Statement

[Monday, 11 May 2020] The Southern Transitional Council has committed to the ceasefire initiative in accordance with the universal call made by the United Nations Secretary-General, and the Council stressed the importance of the Riyadh Agreement as a vehicle for a long-lasting UN-led peace process. We have continuously warned against the intention of the Yemeni government's forces to militarily detonate the situation in Abyan, by sending new forces and mobilising Al-Qaeda and ISIS elements from Marib, Al-Bayda, and Al-Jawf through Shabwa, and we have warned about that clearly in our letters to the International Community on 8th April and 16th April 2020.

Today, as we mentioned before, and due to the conflicting political agendas of the Yemeni government and its failures in all fronts, it has deliberately sparked a new conflict, through the attack that was launched this morning at 06:50 AM Aden time, targeting our forces in Abyan Governorate. This attack comes after months of violations and the attacks carried out by this government without justification.

We have been patient throughout the previous period, and we have avoided responding to all violations due to our respect to the agreement sponsored by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, although, the fact that the Yemeni government did not respect any of the terms of this agreement. The previous period proved that the Yemeni government does not respect obligations and covenants and does not seek any peace in the country. Also, the government did not pay any consideration for the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan, and any risks resulting from the seriousness which could exacerbate the spread of the Corona pandemic emerging in the capital Aden recently. In the face of this brutal attack, the southern armed forces, the supporting resistance and the southern people had no choice but to defend themselves, their lands and protect their families after we tried in every way to avoid confrontation at this difficult time.

This suspicious and irresponsible behavior reflects the continuous steps that the Yemeni government is taking to thwart the United Nations-led peace efforts, damaging the great efforts of the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia by focusing in its war on the Houthi rebellion, and combating terrorism and extremism, and proves once again its fundamental role to destabilize the security and stability of the region.

The Southern Transitional Council reaffirms the importance of the "Riyadh Agreements" and the pivotal role of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as a leader of the Arab coalition, and therefore, we reaffirm our strategic partnership, our commitment and support for peace and stability efforts, our right to self-defense, territory and supply, and to fight terrorism and extremism.

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STC WELCOMES UN SECURITY COUNCIL STATEMENT ON YEMEN ESCALATION AND COMMITMENT TO SOUTH YEMEN SOLUTION

[NEW YORK – 31 January 2020] The Southern Transitional Council (STC) welcomes the statement issued by the President of the UN Security Council on 30 January in response to the renewed escalation in parts of Yemen. The STC further commends the Security Council's full public support and commitment to enabling the Riyadh Agreement to bring security and a sustainable solution to South Yemen.

Since the signing of the Riyadh Agreement, the STC has engaged constructively with the Yemeni government, and worked closely with our allies the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, culminating in agreement on phase two of the implementation process on 9 January, as noted by the Security Council. This is a demonstration of the STC's continued and genuine commitment to a political solution for the South issue and Yemeni crisis through UN-led efforts.

The significant escalation unfolding in Nehm, Al Jawf, and Ma'rib is an unfortunate yet important reminder of the need for renewed political will behind a fully inclusive and credible political process under UN auspices. This, as the Riyadh Agreement has affirmed, includes a seat at the negotiation table for the STC to safeguard the interests of the South. We appreciate the challenge of resuming talks when cycles of violence such as this occur, but we urge our international partners to seize the momentum built over the last several months, including through the Riyadh Agreement, to serve as a stepping-stone to a UN-led political solution. In addition to supporting UN Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths' efforts, we know that this requires leverage on the parties to prioritize a political solution over a military strategy.

After five years of conflict, it is critical that people across Yemen are spared further death and displacement. We in the STC are doing our part to ensure the population in the South is protected and receives the humanitarian assistance it requires. We are likewise ready with policy solutions to contribute in any future UN talks in order to reach a sustainable outcome for our people and the South. This includes addressing political and security issues in the South, ensuring a South free of terrorism, participation of women, youth and civil society in our decision-making and public life, and allowing our people a vision for a future stable and secure South Yemen.

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RENEWED ESCALATION IN YEMEN STARK REMINDER OF URGENCY OF POLITICAL SOLUTION
[WASHINGTON D.C. – 30 January 2020] The Southern Transitional Council (STC) welcomes the United States government's call for all parties to de-escalate renewed violence in Yemen and commitment to demonstrate leadership alongside international partners to bring peace, prosperity, and security to Yemen.

The STC is firm on the primacy of a political solution to the South issue and Yemeni crisis. Action to force a military strategy – including the escalation in the areas of Nehm, Jawf, and Ma'rib over the past two weeks – will only condemn the Yemeni people to further death and destruction. This, the Yemeni people cannot afford. This latest round of fighting, while harmful to the goodwill established in the recent period, must spur a redoubling of political efforts toward a sustainable political solution for Yemen.

In the South, we've seen firsthand how instability, if left unaddressed, can quickly spill to other parts. This is why following the signing of the Riyadh Agreement, the STC acted swiftly to implement its terms and enable its success. We facilitated the return of the Yemeni Prime Ministers and other Ministers to Aden and we continue our counter-terrorism role within the Coalition. Furthermore, on 9 January, we finalized phase two of the implementation process with the Yemeni government, which included agreement on significant measures.

Civilian protection and Southern stability remain the principal aims of the STC. The build-up of military and terrorist groups, such as Islah, in Southern governorates, including in Shabwah and Abyan, presents a serious risk to the successful implementation of the Riyadh Agreement and stability in the South. Southern people on the ground in these governorates, and across the South, continue to need protection and seek a solution for their legitimate grievances.

As UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths intensifies his efforts to bring all Yemeni parties, including the STC, together within the UN-led political track, we look to the United States and our international partners to ensure the full implementation of the Riyadh agreement. Crucially, we look to them to ensure this critical moment is a stepping-stone to inclusive credible political talks, and a sustainable solution for Southerners and all Yemenis. The STC stands ready to do our part toward that end.

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